

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A silver halide photographic emulsion comprising grains, wherein not less than 85% ~~70%~~ of the total projected area of the grains are occupied by tabular grains meeting requirements (i) to (vi) ~~(v)~~ below:

- (i) silver bromochloroiodide grains having (111) faces as major surfaces,
- (ii) hexagonal grains having a ratio of the length of an edge having the maximum length to the length of an edge having the minimum length of not more than 2,
- (iii) perfect epitaxial grains having a total of six epitaxial junctions each existing only in each of six apex portions of the hexagonal grains,
- (iv) the silver chloride content is 1 to 6 mol%, and
- (v) the silver iodide content is 0.5 to 10 mol%, and
- (vi) the silver bromide content of the epitaxial portion is 50 mol% or more wherein the pBr of the emulsion at 40°C is not more than 3.5.

2. (Currently amended) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said tabular grains further meet the following requirement:

(vii) (vi) an equivalent circle diameter is not less than 0.6 μm and a thickness is not more than 0.2 μm .

3. (Original) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the variation coefficient of the equivalent-circle diameters of all the grains is not more than 30%.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently amended) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said tabular grains further meet the following requirement:

(viii) ~~(vii)~~ an equivalent-circle diameter is not less than 1.0 μm and a thickness is not more than 0.1 μm .

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the perfect epitaxial grains defined in said requirement (iii) have no dislocation lines except in the epitaxial apex portions.

10-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently amended) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said tabular grains further meet the following requirement:

(ix) ~~(viii)~~ the silver chloride content of each individual tabular grain is 0.7 to 1.3 CL mol%, wherein CL mol% is the average silver chloride content of all the grains.

18. (Currently amended) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein said tabular grains further meet the following requirement:

(x) ~~(ix)~~ the silver iodide content of each individual tabular grain is 0.7 to 1.3 I mol%, wherein I mol% is the average silver iodide content of all the grains.

19-20. (Cancelled)

21. (Original) A silver halide photographic lightsensitive material having a sensitive layer on a support, wherein the sensitive layer contains the silver halide photographic emulsion according to claim 1.

22-24. (Cancelled)

25. (New) The emulsion according to claim 1, wherein the pBr of the emulsion at 40°C is not more than 3.5.

26. (New) A silver halide photographic emulsion comprising grains, wherein not less than 70% of the total projected area of the grains are occupied by tabular grains meeting requirements (i) to (v) below:

- (i) silver bromochloroiodide grains having (111) faces as major surfaces,
- (ii) hexagonal grains having a ratio of the length of an edge having the maximum length to the length of an edge having the minimum length of not more than 2,
- (iii) perfect epitaxial grains having a total of six epitaxial junctions each existing only in each of six apex portions of the hexagonal grains,
- (iv) the silver chloride content is 1 to 6 mol%, and
- (v) the silver iodide content is 0.5 to 10 mol%,

wherein the pBr of the emulsion at 40°C is not more than 3.5.

27. (New) A method of preparing a silver halide photographic emulsion comprising grains, wherein not less than 70% of the total projected area of the grains are occupied by tabular grains meeting requirements (i) to (v) below:

- (i) silver bromochloroiodide grains having (111) faces as major surfaces,
- (ii) hexagonal grains having a ratio of the length of an edge having the maximum length to the length of an edge having the minimum length of not more than 2,
- (iii) perfect epitaxial grains having a total of six epitaxial junctions each existing only in each of six apex portions of the hexagonal grains,
- (iv) the silver chloride content is 1 to 6 mol%, and
- (v) the silver iodide content is 0.5 to 10 mol%,

said method comprising adding a sensitizing dye to the host tabular grains before the epitaxial junctions are formed.

28. (New) A method of preparing a silver halide photographic emulsion comprising grains, wherein not less than 70% of the total projected area of the grains are occupied by tabular grains meeting requirements (i) to (v) below:

- (i) silver bromochloroiodide grains having (111) faces as major surfaces,
- (ii) hexagonal grains having a ratio of the length of an edge having the maximum length to the length of an edge having the minimum length of not more than 2,
- (iii) perfect epitaxial grains having a total of six epitaxial junctions each existing only in each of six apex portions of the hexagonal grains,
- (iv) the silver chloride content is 1 to 6 mol%, and
- (v) the silver iodide content is 0.5 to 10 mol%,
said method comprising setting pBr of the emulsion during the formation of the epitaxial junction to 4.0 or more.

29. (New) A method of preparing a silver halide photographic emulsion comprising grains, wherein not less than 70% of the total projected area of the grains are occupied by tabular grains meeting requirements (i) to (v) below:

- (i) silver bromochloroiodide grains having (111) faces as major surfaces,
- (ii) hexagonal grains having a ratio of the length of an edge having the maximum length to the length of an edge having the minimum length of not more than 2,
- (iii) perfect epitaxial grains having a total of six epitaxial junctions each existing only in each of six apex portions of the hexagonal grains,
- (iv) the silver chloride content is 1 to 6 mol%, and
- (v) the silver iodide content is 0.5 to 10 mol%,
said method comprising setting pBr of the emulsion at 40°C after the formation of the epitaxial junction to 3.5 or less.